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Naoto Shiki

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EXAMINER

LAM, HUNG H

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2615

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/089,564

Applicant(s)

SHIKI ET AL.

Examiner

Hung H. Lam

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 February 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-31 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28, 30 and 31 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 29 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 04/02/02 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority based on an application filed in Japan on 08/25/2000.

Specification

2. Claim 20 is objected to because of the following informalities: a semicolon “;” should be followed after the phrase “photographing means for photographing an object” in line 2. Appropriate correction is required.
3. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

4. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

5. Regarding claims 13, 16, 19, 22, and 31, the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. Simply, computer programs claimed as computer listings per se, i.e., the descriptions or expressions of the programs, are not physical “thing.” They are neither computer components nor statutory processes, as they are not “acts” being performed. Such claimed

computer programs do not define any structural and functional interrelationships between the computer program and other claimed elements of a computer which permit the computer program's functionality to be realized. See MPEP 2106.IV.B.1.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

7. Claims 14-28 and 30-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Gowda (US-6,628,333).

With regarding to **claim 14**, Gowda discloses an image printing apparatus, comprising:
photographing means for photographing an object (Fig.1; Imager 110; Col. 2, Ln. 30-33);
displaying means constituted by a plurality of display screens for displaying an image of said object photographed by said photographing means (Fig. 3; displays 180 and 182; Col. 5, Ln. 1-28);

accepting means provided in a plurality of numbers corresponding to said plurality of display screens, respectively (two sets of accepting means/ buttons {R, A, E, #} are provided corresponding to the displays 180 and 182), for accepting editorial input inputted to said image

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displayed by said displaying means (Col. 6, Ln. 26-32; the printer software can be designed for adjusting the hue, brightness, contrast in both displays 180-182 and thereby using the two sets of accepting mean: R, A, E, # and pointing device 200 to accept editorial input; Col. 6, Ln. 15-25; it is noticed that the accepting means are upgradable to display as the input menu on both display);

editing means for editing said image based on said editorial input accepted by said accepting means (Col. 6, Ln. 26-32; editing means is interpreted as the printer software and zoom capability which inherently use the two set of function button R, A, E, #, and 200 as the editorial input and accepting means);

printing means for printing said image edited by said editing means (Col. 5, Ln. 7-10; Col. 5, Ln. 63-64; Col. 6, Ln. 32-45; image is zoomed in for editing before printing); and

reflecting means for reflecting a first editorial input accepted by one of said plurality of accepting means as a second editorial input accepted by the other accepting means (Col. 4, Ln. 64-67 - Col. 5, Ln. 1-50; Col. 6, Ln. 1-5; zooming capability is interpreted as part of the editing option. The camera inherently accepts the zoom instruction in order for the zoomed image to be displayed), when said image displayed on a first display screen and said image displayed on a second display screen of said plurality of display screens are the same image (Col. 5, Ln. 5-10; zoomed image on display 180 and observed image on display 182 are the same image).

With regarding to **claim 15**, the claim is a method claim of claim 14. Therefore, claim 15 is analyzed and rejected as previously discussed in claim 14.

With regarding to **claim 16**, the claim contains the same limitations as recited in claim 14. Therefore, claim 16 is analyzed and rejected as previously discussed in claim 14.

With regarding to **claim 17**, Gowda discloses an image printing apparatus, comprising:
photographing means for photographing an object (Fig. 1; Imager 110; Col. 2, Ln. 30-33);
displaying means (180-182) for displaying an image of said object photographed by said photographing means (Fig. 3; displays 180-182; Col. 5, Ln. 1-28; the displayed images must be inherently photographed by the photographing means);

accepting means for accepting editorial input inputted to said image displayed by said displaying means (Col. 6, Ln. 26-32; the printer software can be designed for adjusting the hue, brightness, contrast in both displays 180-182 and thereby using the two sets of accepting mean: R, A, E, # and pointing device 200 to accept editorial input; Col. 6, Ln. 15-25; it is noticed that the accepting means are upgradeable to display as the input menu on both display);

editing means for editing said image based on said editorial input accepted by said accepting means (Col. 6, Ln. 26-32; editing means is interpreted as the printer software and zoom capability which inherently use the two set of function button R, A, E, #, and 200 as the editorial input and accepting means); and

printing means for printing said image edited by said editing means (Col. 5, Ln. 7-10; Col. 5, Ln. 63-64; Col. 6, Ln. 32-45; desired images are selected for printing and thereby edited base image are inherently selected for printing),

said image printing apparatus being characterized in that said displaying means is constituted by a plurality of display screens (Fig. 3; displays 180 and 182);

said accepting means is provided in a plurality of numbers corresponding to said plurality of display screens, respectively (Fig. 3; two sets of button {R, A, E, #, and pointing device} corresponding to one of the display 180 and 182); and

said editing means edits a special image (zoom and edit the same image), when said image displayed on a first display screen and said image displayed on a second display screen of said plurality of display screens are the same (Col. 5; Ln. 1-50; zoomed image on display 180 and observed image on display 182 are the same image), and one of said accepting means and the other of said accepting means simultaneously accept said editorial inputs in a location corresponding to said image (accepting mean/ the pointing device/ cursor position on the first display are used to select the region to be displayed on the second display).

With regarding to **claim 18**, the subject matter claimed in claim 18 can be found in claim 17. Therefore, claim 18 is analyzed and rejected as previously discussed with respect to claim 17.

With regarding to **claim 19**, the subject matter claimed in claim 19 can be found in claim 17. Therefore, claim 19 is analyzed and rejected as previously discussed with respect to claim 17.

With regarding to **claim 20**, the subject matter claimed in claim 20 can be found in claim 17. Therefore, claim 20 is analyzed and rejected as previously discussed with respect to claim 17.

With regarding to **claim 21**, the subject matter claimed in claim 21 can be found in claim 20. Therefore, claim 21 is analyzed and rejected as previously discussed with respect to claim 20.

With regarding to **claim 22**, the subject matter claimed in claim 22 can be found in claim 20. Therefore, claim 22 is analyzed and rejected as previously discussed with respect to claim 20.

With regarding to **claim 23**, Gowda discloses an image printing apparatus, comprising:
photographing means for photographing an object (Fig.1; Imager 110; Col. 2, Ln. 30-33);
displaying means for displaying an image of said object photographed by said photographing means (Fig. 3; displays 180 and 182; Col. 5, Ln. 1-28; the displayed image must be photographed by the photographing means);

accepting means for accepting editorial input for accepting editorial input inputted relative to said image displayed by said displaying means (Col. 6, Ln. 26-32; the printer software is used for adjusting the hue, brightness, contrast in both displays 180-182 and thereby the two sets of accepting mean: R, A, E, # and pointing device 200 are used to accept editorial input; Col. 6, Ln. 15-25; it is noticed that the accepting means are upgradable to display as the input menu on both display).

editing means for editing said image based on said editorial input accepted by said accepting means (Col. 6, Ln. 26-32; editing means is interpreted as the printer software and zoom capability which inherently use the two set of function button R, A, E, #, and 200 as the editorial input and accepting means);

printing means for printing said image edited by said editing means (Col. 5, Ln. 7-10; Col. 5, Ln. 63-64; Col. 6, Ln. 32-45; image is zoomed in for editing before printing);

setting means for setting the editable area of said image to be edited by said editing means (Col. 5, Ln. 1-50; an editable area is set using the cursor); and

determining means for determining whether or not editorial input has been inputted in the editable area of said image (Col. 5, Ln. 1-50; the controller 118 in Fig. 1 is interpreted as the determining means which inherently determines whether or not the cursor position has moved in order to display the zoom area on one of the display 180 or 182),

characterized in that said editing means edits said image based on said editorial input when it has been determined by said determining means that said editorial input has been inputted in said editable area (Col. 5, Ln. 1-50; the image is edited/ zoomed and reflected to the other display when the editorial input/pointing device 200 has changed the cursor position).

With regarding to **claim 24**, Gowda discloses the image printing apparatus characterized in that said setting means sets as said editable area an area, in which the value of pixels constituting said image correspond to pixels, which are darker than a predetermined threshold value set beforehand (Gowda; Col. 6, Ln. 26-32; the printer software is used to adjust the brightness or contrast of the displaying image).

With regarding to **claim 25**, Gowda discloses the image printing apparatus characterized in that said displaying means has a plurality of display screens, and said accepting means has:

a first accepting means corresponding to a first display screen of said plurality of display screens (Fig. 3; accepting means / buttons R, A, # and pointing device 200; display 180); and

a second accepting means corresponding to a second display screen of said plurality of display screens (Fig. 3; accepting means / buttons R, A, # and pointing device 200; display 182); and

said setting means has:

a first setting means for setting a first said editable area corresponding to said first display screen (Col. 4, Ln. 64-67 – Col. 5, Ln. 1-50; Col. 6, Ln. 1-5; the pointing device 200 is interpreted as the first setting means for zooming in/out from an image on display 180); and

a second setting means for setting a second said editable area corresponding to said second display screen (Gowda; Col. 4, Ln. 64-67 – Col. 5, Ln. 1-50; Col. 6, Ln. 1-5; the pointing device 200 is interpreted as the second setting means for zooming in/out from an image when it is used in the second display 182).

With regarding to **claim 26**, Gowda discloses the image printing apparatus further comprising a plurality of selecting means for selecting the percentage of said editable area for each of said plurality of display screens (Col. 5, Ln. 1-55; zoomed area can be selected and varied in size according to the user).

With regarding to **claim 27**, Gowda discloses the image printing apparatus characterized in that first said editable area set by said first setting means is displayed on said first display screen, and second said editable area set by said second setting means is displayed on said second display screen (Gowda; Col. 4, Ln. 64-67; Col. 6, Ln. 1-5; Gowda teaches that two images can be viewed simultaneously and the preview unit 116 {including display 180 and 182}

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provides the capability to zoom in on any sequence of stored image; therefore, the user can automatically select two images from the list and editing {zoom} each of them on displays 180 and 182).

With regarding to **claim 28**, the subject matter claimed in claim 28 can be found in claim 14. Therefore, claim 28 is analyzed and rejected as previously discussed with respect to claim 14.

With regarding to **claim 30**, the claim is a method claim of claim 23. Therefore, claim 30 is analyzed and rejected as previously discussed in claim 23.

With regarding to **claim 31**, the claim contains the same limitations as claimed in claim 23. Therefore, claim 31 is analyzed and rejected as previously discussed in claim 23.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. Claims 1-7 and 9-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gowda et al. (US-6,628,333) in view of Safai (US-6,715,003).

With regarding to **claim 1**, Gowda discloses an image printing apparatus, comprising:

one photographing means for photographing an object (Fig. 1; Imager 110; Col. 2, Ln. 30-33);

storing means for storing a plurality of images of said object photographed by said one photographing means (Fig. 1; Memory Device 112; Col. 1, Ln. 54-56; Col. 2, Ln. 30-33);

selecting means for selecting a plurality of base images on which additional images are to be inputted, from among said plurality of images stored in said storing means (Fig. 1-2; pointing device, two sets of button R, P, A, and E; Col. 5, Ln. 55-67 – Col. 6, Ln. 1-5; base images are interpreted as images listed on the display by pressing # key; additional stored digital images can be selected and viewed by advancing, reversing button, or pointing device 200);

first displaying means for displaying said plurality of base images (Fig.3; first display 180; Col. 6, Ln. 1-5), which is a plurality of images of said object photographed by said one photographing means, and which has been selected by said selecting means (Col. 5, Ln. 10-17; Col. 5, Ln. 65-67 - Col. 6, Ln. 1-5; the list of images is displayed on one of the display when the user presses the # button);

accepting means for excepting editorial input (Col. 6, Ln. 26-32; the printer software can be designed for adjusting the hue, brightness, contrast in both displays 180-182 and thereby using the two sets of accepting mean: R, A, E, # and pointing device 200 to accept editorial input);

editing means for editing said based image based on said editorial input (Col. 5, Ln. 1-50; zoom in/out to reduce and enlarge an image is also commonly known in the art as part of an

editing option; Col. 6, Ln. 26-32; the printer software is embodied in controller 118 also interpreted as the editing means for editing { hue, brightness, contrast });

printing means for printing said base image edited by said editing means (Col. 5, Ln. 7-10; Col. 5, Ln. 63-64; Col. 6, Ln. 32-45; image is zoomed in for editing before printing), wherein said first displaying means is constituted by a plurality of display screens consisting of a first display screen and a second display screen (Fig. 3; 180 and 182; Col. 5, Ln. 1-10);

said first display screen displays (180), as one image, a first base image from among said plurality of base images (Col. 5, Ln. 65-67 – Col. 6, Ln. 1-5; base image is the image which is selected from the list of images on the display), which is a plurality of images of said object photographed by said one photographing means (the list of images on the displays is inherently photographed by the photographing means), and which has been selected by said selecting means (each image from the list on the display can be selected by the pointing device 200);

said second display screen displays (182), in a state where said first display screen is displaying said first base image, a second base image, as one image, which differs from said first base image, from among said plurality of base images (see Col. 6, Ln. 1-25. Since Gowda teaches that each display 180 and 182 has its own set of buttons, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Gowada by displaying different images on each display 180 and 182 in order to facilitate the review of captured images), which is a plurality of images of said object photographed by said one photographing means (the list of images on the displays is inherently photographed by the photographing means), and which has been selected by said selecting means (Col. 5, Ln. 10-12; Col. 5, Ln. 65-67 – Col. 6, Ln. 1-5; since both displays each

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have its own sets of function button, different images from the list can be viewed by the two sets of function button); and

wherein said accepting means is provided in a plurality of numbers corresponding to each of said plurality of display screens constituting said first displaying means, and said accepting means has a first accepting means (Fig. 3; R, #, A and 200), that are superimposed in the upper portion of said first display screen (Col. 6, Ln. 15-25; accepting means R, #, A become menu function which inherently superimposes in the upper portion of each display), and which is superimposed in the upper portion of said second display screen (Col. 6, Ln. 15-25; accepting means R, A, E, # become menu function that are implicitly superimposed in the upper portion of each display. Gowda teaches that the controller 118 and software included in the printer 114 can be used to edit images displayed in either or both of the displays 180 and 182. Therefore, it is inherent that there is a second accepting means associated with the second display 182).

However, Gowda fails to teach the underlined portions of the following claim elements:

accepting means for accepting editorial input for adding additional images, which is inputted on top of said base images displayed by said first displaying means;

editing means for editing said based image based on said editorial input for adding additional images accepted by said accepting means; and

wherein a first accepting means, which is superimposed in the upper portion of said first display screen, and which accepts a first editorial input for additional images inputted on top of said one first base image displayed on said first display screen, and a second accepting means, which is superimposed in the upper portion of said second display screen, and which accepts a

second editorial input for additional images inputted on top of said one second base image displayed on said second display screen.

In the same field of endeavor, Safai teaches a digital camera wherein the edit menu option provides the magnifying, drawing, and brightness options (Fig. 11B-11E; Col. 23, Ln. 10-27). Safai further teaches that the additional stored/customized drawing images can be added and placed over the captured image (Fig. 11D; Step 1142; Col. 23, Ln. 64-67 – Col. 24, Ln. 1-26). In light of the teaching from Safai, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the camera of Gowda to include the step of adding additional drawing images on top of the captured images as claimed by Safai in order to provide the user with a more creative editorial tools on both displays and thereby permitting the user to generate more exciting photos.

With regarding to **claim 2**, Gowda in view of Safai discloses the image printing apparatus characterized in that said plurality of display screens are juxtaposed (Gowda; Fig. 3, display 180 and 182 are placed side by side).

With regarding to **claim 3**, Gowda in view of Safai discloses the image printing apparatus characterized in that different types of information are displayed on said plurality of display screens, respectively (Gowda; Col. 6, Ln. 15-25; the two sets of buttons are converted to the menu functions which display different types of information regarding the buttons menu: R, A, E, P and #).

With regarding to **claim 4**, Gowda in view of Safai discloses the image printing apparatus characterized in that a display for specifying said editorial input is displayed on each of said plurality of display screens (Gowda; Col. 5, Ln. 4-6; Col. 6, Ln. 26-32; the printer software must display the editorial input in order for the user to the adjust the hue, brightness, contrast before printing), and said accepting means, of which a plurality are provided, accept each said editorial input based on the display for specifying said editorial input (Gowda; Col. 5, Ln. 55-67; Col. Col. 6, Ln. 26-32).

With regarding to **claim 5**, Gowda in view of Safai discloses the image printing apparatus characterized in that a selection screen (Gowda; zoomed image on 180) of said image is displayed on a first display screen, and said image selected on said selection screen is displayed on a second display screen (Gowda; observed image on 182) of said plurality of display screens (Gowda; Col. 5, Ln. 11-19; Col. 5, Ln. 29-32; Col. 6, Ln. 1-5).

With regarding to **claim 6**, Gowda in view of Safai teaches the image signals are transferred from a memory (112) to preview unit (116) (Col. 2, Ln. 38-44). However, Gowda and Safai fail to disclose the image printing apparatus further comprising:

first storage means for storing said image displayed on a first display screen of said plurality of display screens; and second storage means for storing said image displayed on a second display screen of said plurality of display screens.

Official Notice is taken that it is well known and expected in the art to use multiple memory means to store the corresponding captured images on multiple displays in order to facilitate displaying of images. Therefore, it would have been obvious to modify the camera of

Gowda and Safai to include the first and second storage means for storing the image displayed on a first and second display screens in order to facilitate displaying of desired images, and thereby provide more secure display screens permitting the user to work on the dual displays at the same time or treat them as individual.

With regarding to **claim 7**, Gowda in view of Safai discloses the image printing apparatus characterized in that said printing means prints an image stored by either said first or second storage means on a printing medium (Gowda; Col. 1, Ln. 57-60; Col. 2, Ln. 33-44).

With regarding to **claim 9**, Gowda in view of Safai discloses the image printing apparatus further comprising second displaying means for displaying said object image photographed by said photographing means in the vicinity of said photographing means (Gowda; Fig. 3; Col. 4, Ln. 64-67 – Col. 5, Ln. 1-5; Gowda teaches that the Preview 1 or display 180 can used as the viewfinder and arranged within camera 100).

With regarding to **claim 10**, Gowda in view of Safai discloses the same subject matter as claimed in claim 1. However, Gowda and Safai fail to disclose the image printing apparatus further comprising the stairs consisting of one or more steps of substantially the same width as said printing image apparatus, and positioned in a range where said photographing means is capable of photographing.

Official Notice is taken that it is well known and expected in the art to use an apple-box that is typically the height of a stair tread and is large enough to hold a person standing thereon. Moreover, single or multiples apple-boxes are performed as a raised plate-forms to create an

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elevated surface on a stage. Therefore, it would have been obvious to modify the device of Gowda and Safai to include the stair/apple-box having the same width as the printing image apparatus and the proper photographing distance in order to provide a support with enough space to hold a person and within distance range for capturing the best photos. The modifications thus provide an improved image capturing device wherein the size, and photographing distance of the stair support are optimized.

With regarding to **claim 11**, Gowda in view of Safai discloses the image printing apparatus further comprising:

ejecting means for ejecting a printing medium on which said image, which is displayed on said plurality of display screens, is printed by said printing means (Gowda; Col. 4, Ln. 25-37; Col. 6, Ln. 33-38; the ejecting means is interpreted as the film transport system 152 which transfers the finished film into the compartment 160).

With regarding to **claim 12**, the subject matter claimed in claim 12 can be found in claim 1. Therefore, claim 12 is analyzed and rejected as previously discussed with respect to claim 1.

With regarding to **claim 13**, the subject matter claimed in claim 13 can be found in claim 1. Therefore, claim 13 is analyzed and rejected as previously discussed with respect to claim 1.

10. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gowda in view of Safai, and further in view of Koichiro (JP07-003831).

With regarding to **claim 8**, Gowda in view of Safai discloses the same subject matter as claimed in claim 1. However, Gowda and Safai fail to discloses the image printing apparatus further comprising:

first sound generating means for generating a sound corresponding to a display of a first display screen of said plurality of display screens; and

second sound generating means for generating a sound corresponding to a display of a second display screen of said plurality of display screens, and

characterized in that said first sound generating means and said second sound generating means generate respectively different sounds.

In the same field of endeavor, Koichiro teaches an video/audio generating means wherein the video and audio equipments can be control to display different images and sound on a plural of display (Abstract: Purpose; Detailed Description; [0008]). Koichiro further teaches a plurality of sound generating means (Drawing 1; video/audio sources) connecting to a switching mean (201) and outputting to a plurality of displays (Drawing 1; display group 3). In light of the teaching from Koichiro, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the device of Gowda by utilizing the sound generating means to produce different images and sound for the plurality of display as taught by Koichiro in order to provide an improve video/ audio display equipments wherein the display devices can be switched without interrupting the image. Therefore, clear and stable pictures can be obtained inspired of plural pictures (Koichiro, Abstract: Constitution).

Allowable Subject Matter

11. Claims 29 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Regarding claim 29 the following is a statement of reason for the indication of allowance: the prior art made of record and considered pertinent to the applicant's disclosure does not disclose nor fairly suggest the apparatus of claim 28 further in combination with: **said reflecting means prohibits first said editable area from being reflected on said second display screen, and prohibits second said editable area from being reflected on said first display screen.**

Conclusion

12. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

a) Perry (US-5,971,544) discloses an imaging technique using an aple-box as a raised platforms to create an elevated surfaced on stage.

b) Attenberg (US-5,623,581) discloses an interactive photo kiosk and image forming process.

c) Gilman (US-6,781,713) discloses an image printing apparatus having dual screens for displaying the image before and after adjusting the brightness.

d) Simon (US-6,619,860) discloses the photo-booth for producing digitally processed images.

e) Hoyt (US-2001/0,011,262) discloses a photo kiosk with first display for outputting image from the user and second display for attracting user to the booth.

f) Tsugane (US-4,961,211) discloses a camera system having multiple cameras input signals store in the corresponding memories that are inputted to the corresponding displays.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hung H. Lam whose telephone number is 571-272-7367. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 8AM - 5PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's primary, NGOC YEN VU can be reached on 571-272-7320. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

HL

07/11/05


NGOCYEN VU
PRIMARY EXAMINER